


Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, immediately after the Title with the following paragraph:

 ~~This~~ application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/498,554, filed February 4, 2000; which in turn is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/129,463, filed August 4, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,040,193; which in turn is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/426,202, filed April 21, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 6,136,269; which in turn is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 07/980,523, filed November 20, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,677,195; which in turn is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 07/796,243, filed November 22, 1991, now U.S. Patent No. 5,384, 261; ~~which in turn is a continuation-in-part of~~ and U.S. Patent Application No. 07/874,849, filed April 24, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,412,087.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK.]